

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A bumper beam for a vehicle, comprising an outer profile (14) with a bow-~~formed~~ shaped central flange (16) and two webs (17, 18), and a cover (15) that provides a closed profile, the outer profile being adapted to be fastened with its an outer surface of said bow-shaped central flange facing outwards from the vehicle,

characterised in that

the cover (15) has a central flange (24) and two webs (25, 26), and the two webs (25, 26) of the cover are coupled in pairs with the two webs (17, 18) of the outer profile (14), the web height of the cover (15) at its ~~centre~~ center being greater than the web height of the outer profile (14) at its ~~centre~~ center, the web height of the outer profile (14) increasing continuously sideways from its ~~centre~~ center, and the web height of the cover (15) decreasing continuously sideways from its ~~centre~~ center.

Claim 2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to claim 1, characterised in that the ~~depth~~ combined web height of the outer profile and the cover of the bumper beam at its ~~centre~~ center is at least 130% of the ~~depth~~ combined web height of the outer profile and the cover of the bumper beam at its fastening portions thereof, and the central flange (24) of the cover extends substantially linearly between said ~~these~~ fastening portions.

Claim 4. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to claim 3, ~~[[;]]~~ characterised in that ~~its depth~~ the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover at its ~~centre~~ center is at least 160% of ~~its depth~~ the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover at its ~~said~~ fastening portions.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to Claim 1, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23) which are oriented in a direction transverse to the direction of longitudinal extension of the webs of the cover.

Claim 6. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to claim 1, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 7. (original) A bumper beam according to Claim 6, characterised in that both the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) have side flanges that end their webs, and these side flanges (19 and 27; 20 and 28) are welded together.

Claim 8. (currently amended) A bumper beam for a vehicle, comprising an outer profile (14) with a bow- ~~formed~~ shaped central flange (16) and two webs (17, 18), and a cover (15) that provides a closed profile, the outer profile being adapted to be fastened with ~~its~~ an outer surface of said bow-shaped central flange facing outwards from the vehicle,

characterised in that

the cover (15) has a central flange (24) and two webs (25, 26), and the two webs (25, 26) of the cover are coupled in pairs with the two webs (17, 18) of the outer profile (14), the web height of the cover (15) at its ~~centre~~ center being greater than the web height of the outer profile (14) at its ~~centre~~ center, and

~~the sheet of~~ the cover has a lower yield strength than the ~~sheet of the~~ outer profile.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A bumper beam for a vehicle, comprising an outer profile (14) with a bow- ~~formed~~ shaped central flange (16) and two webs (17, 18), and a cover (15) that provides a closed profile, the outer profile being adapted to be fastened with its an outer surface of said bow-shaped central flange facing outwards from the vehicle,

characterised in that

the cover (15) has a central flange (24) and two webs (25, 26), and the two webs (25, 26) of the cover are coupled in pairs with the two webs (17, 18) of the outer profile (14), the web height of the cover (15) at its ~~centre~~ center being greater than the web height of the outer profile (14) at its ~~centre~~ center, and

the ~~sheet~~ thickness of the material from which the cover (15) is formed is less than the ~~sheet~~ thickness of the material from which the outer profile (14) is formed.

Claim 10. (cancelled)

Claim 11. (cancelled)

Claim 12. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to Claim 3, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23) which are oriented in a direction transverse to the direction of longitudinal extension of the webs of the cover.

Claim 13. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 4, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23) which are oriented in a direction transverse to the direction of longitudinal extension of the webs of the cover.

Claim 14. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 3, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 15. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 4, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 16. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 5, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover are welded together.

Claim 17. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that ~~the sheet~~ thickness of the material from which the cover (15) is formed is less than the ~~sheet~~ thickness of the material from which the outer profile (14) is formed.

Claim 18. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to Claim 9, characterised in that ~~the sheet of~~ the cover has a lower yield strength than ~~the sheet of~~ the outer profile.

Claim 19. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that the ~~depth~~ combined web height of the outer profile and the cover of the bumper beam at its center ~~centre~~ is at least 130% of the ~~depth~~ combined web height of the outer profile and the cover of the bumper beam at its fastening portions thereof, and the central flange (24) of the cover extends substantially linearly between said ~~these~~ fastening portions.

Claim 20. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to Claim 9, characterised in that the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover ~~depth~~ of the bumper beam at its center ~~centre~~ is at least 130% of the combined web height of the outer profile and the cover ~~depth~~ of the bumper beam at its fastening portions thereof, and the central flange (24) of the cover extends substantially linearly between said ~~these~~ fastening portions.

Claim 21. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23) which are oriented in a direction transverse to the direction of longitudinal extension of the webs of the cover.

Claim 22. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to Claim 9, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23) which are oriented in a direction transverse to the direction of longitudinal extension of the webs of the cover.

Claim 23. (previously presented) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 24. (new) A bumper beam for a vehicle, comprising an outer profile (14) with a bow-shaped central flange (16) and two webs (17, 18), and a cover (15) that provides a closed profile, the outer profile being adapted to be fastened with an outer surface of said bow-shaped central flange facing outwards from the vehicle,

characterised in that

the web height of the outer profile (15) increases continuously sideways from its center, and the web height of the cover (15) decrease continuously sideways from its center.

Claim 25. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 1, characterised in that said outer profile (14) includes a stiffener (21) extending in a longitudinal direction along a portion of said outer profile (14).

Claim 26. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that said outer profile (14) includes a stiffener (21) extending in a longitudinal direction along a portion of said outer profile (14).

Claim 27. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 9, characterised in that said outer profile (14) includes a stiffener (21) extending in a longitudinal direction along a portion of said outer profile (14).